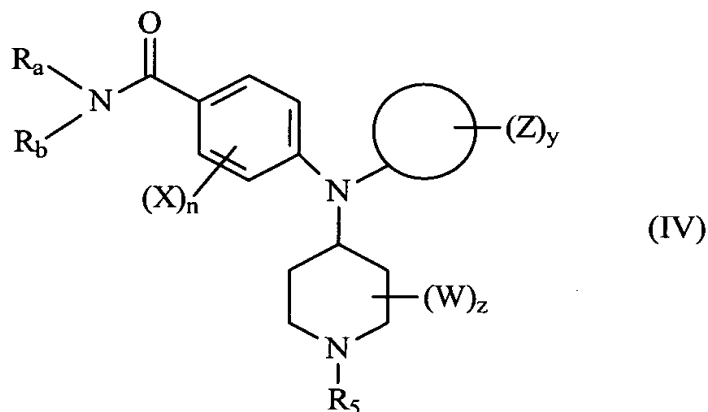


IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel Claims 1-16 and 23-25.

Please amend the claims as shown in the attached marked-up copy. For convenience, all of the pending claims are reproduced below.

1. ~~17~~. (Amended) A compound represented by formula (IV):



where

R_a and R_b are each, independently, hydrogen or an alkyl group, or R_a and R_b , together, form a cycloalkyl group;

each X is, independently, an alkyl group;

○ is a five- or six-membered aryl or heteroaryl group;

each Z is, independently, an alkyl group, -OH, -OR, halogen, -CF₃, -CN, -NH₂, -NHR, or -N(R)₂, wherein when Z is -N(R)₂ the R groups may, together, form a cyclic alkyl group;

each R is, independently, an alkyl group, an aryl group, or an alkaryl group;

each W is an alkyl group;

n is 0 or an integer from 1 to 4;

y is 0 or an integer from 1 to 5;

z is an integer from 1 to 8; and

R₅ is an alkyl group, alkenyl group, or aralkyl group,

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

2 ~~18~~. (Amended) The compound of Claim ~~17~~¹, wherein

R_a and R_b are each, independently, hydrogen or a C₁₋₈ alkyl group, or R_a and R_b, together, form a cycloalkyl group;

each X is, independently, a C₁₋₈ alkyl group;

O is a five-membered heteroaryl group or a six-membered aryl or heteroaryl group;

each W is a C₁₋₈ alkyl group;

n is 0, 1 or 2;

y is 0 or an integer from 1 to 3;

z is an integer from 1 to 4; and

R₅ is a C₁₋₈ alkyl group, a C₃₋₈ alkenyl group, or an aryl-C₁₋₄ alkyl group.--

3 ~~19~~. The compound of Claim ~~18~~², wherein O is a five-membered heteroaryl group containing up to 3 heteroatoms, a six-membered aryl group or a six-membered heteroaryl group containing up to three heteroatoms.

4 ~~20~~. The compound of Claim ~~19~~³, wherein the heteroatoms are each, independently, nitrogen, oxygen or sulfur.

5 ~~21~~. The compound of Claim ~~20~~⁴, wherein

R_a and R_b are each, independently, hydrogen or a C₁₋₄ alkyl group, or R_a and R_b, together, form a cycloalkyl group;

each X is, independently, a C₁₋₄ alkyl group;

n is 0, 1 or 2;

y is 0, 1 or 2;

z is 0 an integer from 1 to 4; and

R₅ is a C₁₋₈ alkyl group, a C₃₋₈ alkenyl group, or a phenyl-C₁₋₄ alkyl group.

6 ~~22~~. The compound of Claim ~~21~~⁵, wherein

○ is a six-membered aryl group; and

z is an integer from 1 to 4.

7 ~~26~~. A method of binding opioid receptors, comprising administering an effective amount of the compound of Claim ~~17~~ to a mammalian subject in need thereof.--

Please add the following claims:

8 ~~27~~. The compound of Claim ~~22~~⁶, wherein ○ is a phenyl group.

9 ~~28~~. The compound of Claim ~~17~~, wherein z is 1.

10 ~~29~~. The compound of Claim ~~17~~, wherein ○ is a six-membered aryl group.

11 ~~30~~. The compound of Claim ~~17~~, wherein ○ is a phenyl group.

12 ~~31~~. The compound of Claim ~~17~~, wherein at least one W is bonded to a carbon atom adjacent to the carbon atom bearing the diamino substituent.

13 ~~32~~. The compound of Claim ~~31~~¹², wherein z is 1, 2, or 3.

14 ~~33~~. The compound of Claim ~~32~~¹³, wherein each W is, independently, an alkyl group having 1 to 8 carbon atoms.

15 ~~34~~. The compound of Claim ~~17~~, wherein each W is, independently, an alkyl group having 1 to 8 carbon atoms.

16 ~~35~~. The compound of Claim ~~34~~¹⁵, wherein z is 1, 2, or 3.

17 ~~36~~. The method of Claim ~~26~~⁷, wherein the subject is a human.

18 ~~37~~⁷. The method of Claim ~~26~~⁷, wherein delta opioid receptors are bound.

19 ~~38~~⁷. The method of Claim ~~26~~⁷, wherein the compound functions as an agonist selective for the delta receptor.

20 ~~39~~¹. A method of treating heroin addiction, pain, mu-induced respiratory depression, migraines, allergies, diarrhea, depression, alcoholism, hypertension, or obesity, comprising administering an effective amount of the compound of Claim ~~17~~¹ to a subject in need thereof.

21 ~~40~~²⁰. The method of Claim ~~39~~²⁰, wherein the subject is a human.

22 ~~41~~¹. A method of treating smoking addiction, comprising administering an effective amount of the compound of Claim ~~17~~¹ to a human subject.--

SUPPORT FOR THE AMENDMENTS

The specification has been amended to insert continuing application data and to insert an Abstract. The amendment to Claim 17 is supported by the specification at page 16, line 4. Newly added Claims 27-41 are supported by the specification at pages 16 and 23-25. No new matter is believed to have been added to this application by these amendments.

REMARKS

Claims 17-22 and 26-41 are pending. Favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested.

The present invention relates to compounds represented by formula (IV):